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Letter dated 21 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to my previous letter, dated 18 July 2008, concerning Thailand's violation of the sovereignty and occupation of the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I have the honour to further bring to your kind attention the following update of the situation.

With the utmost patience and goodwill, the Cambodian delegation headed by General Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, held extensive discussions with the Thai delegation headed by General Boonsrang Niumpradit, Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters in the framework of the Cambodian-Thai General Border Committee on 21 July 2008 in Thailand.

During the meeting, the Cambodian side proposed the withdrawal of both Thai and Cambodian soldiers from Keo Sikha Kiri Svara pagoda in Cambodia's territory and offered to set up a village at a new location for the Cambodian villagers who have been living in the market area near the Temple of Preah Vihear and build facilities for them of international standard. These proposals represent the maximum concession that Cambodia can make with goodwill in order to settle the crisis peacefully.

Regrettably, Thailand imposed the condition to have the rights to border claims and in the meantime built up its military presence with artillery and tanks along the border. These constitute an extremely grave threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia as well as to peace and stability in South-East Asia.

Considering the above and in order to prevent the escalating situation leading to imminent armed conflict, I have the honour to ask you to convene an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council with the participation of Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in order to address the above-mentioned issue, which is a grave threat to peace and security in the region.

(*Signed*) Kosal **Sea**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of Cambodia to the United Nations

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